



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PARKVILLE MAN SENTENCED FOR METH, COUNTERFEIT CHECK CONSPIRACIES

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Parkville, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today for participating in a methamphetamine conspiracy as well as a conspiracy to create and distribute counterfeit checks.

Charles Courtright, 36, of Parkville, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this afternoon to seven years in federal prison without parole.

On June 23, 2005, **Courtright** pleaded guilty to participating in a conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine between Jan. 1, 2003, and March 31, 2004. **Courtright** also pleaded guilty to participating in a conspiracy to create and distribute counterfeit checks during the time of the methamphetamine conspiracy. **Courtright** also pleaded guilty to production of false identification documents and to being a felon in possession of a firearm.

Courtright admitted that he supplied people with counterfeit identifications and payroll checks for a fee, such as when he sold a counterfeit identification card to an undercover detective on Feb. 18, 2003, at his former residence in Kansas City-North. A search warrant served at that residence on Feb. 26, 2003, revealed a Marlin .22-caliber rifle in **Courtright's** possession. Under federal law, Graves said, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Courtright** has a 1997 criminal felony conviction for fraudulent use of a credit device in Clay County, Mo.

On Oct. 13, 2004, police served another search warrant at **Courtright's** Parkville residence. At that time, Graves said, **Courtright** was in possession of 43.4 grams of methamphetamine intended for distribution and \$1,946. On March 29, 2004, **Courtright** was arrested in Lebanon, Mo. Police recovered from him 40 grams of methamphetamine packaged for distribution, Graves said, as well as a laptop computer containing several counterfeit

identifications and checks and \$1,648.

Courtright is the sixth co-defendant to be sentenced on the charges contained in a Sept. 10, 2004, federal indictment.

* **Michael E. Sprague**, 35, of Kansas City-North, was sentenced on Aug. 2, 2005, to four years and nine months in federal prison without parole. **Sprague** pleaded guilty on March 30, 2005, to his role in the methamphetamine conspiracy. **Sprague** admitted that he purchased and distributed between 30 to 40 grams of methamphetamine.

* **Angela Mormino**, 23, of Kansas City-North, was sentenced on Sept. 22, 2005, to one year and nine months in federal prison without parole. **Mormino** pleaded guilty on May 12, 2005, to participating in a conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine between Jan. 1, 2003, and March 31, 2004. **Mormino** also pleaded guilty to participating in a conspiracy to create and distribute counterfeit checks during the time of the methamphetamine conspiracy.

When she was arrested along with co-defendant **Scott Brewer**, 30, of Kansas City-North, they had in their possession counterfeit driver's licenses, counterfeit checks, and a Checksoft software disk. **Mormino** admitted that she was in possession of methamphetamine on several occasions, Graves said, and that she cashed or attempted to cash counterfeit payroll checks. Actual and intended losses to the victims of the fraud exceeded \$30,000. **Mormino** also agreed to forfeit to the government any property derived from the proceeds of these offenses.

* **Brewer** was sentenced on June 1, 2005, to five years and 10 months in federal prison without parole. On Feb. 2, 2005, **Brewer** pleaded guilty to his role in the methamphetamine conspiracy. **Brewer** also pleaded guilty to identity theft. At the time of **Brewer's** arrest, Graves said, law enforcement officers found in his possession nearly 62 grams of methamphetamine. **Brewer** also admitted that he used a means of identification of another person to cash numerous counterfeit checks at various retail stores. The total amount of the checks was approximately \$51,572.

* **Corey Blair**, 31, and **Dana Ardry**, 36, both of Kansas City-North, were each sentenced on May 19, 2005, to seven years in federal prison without parole. On Dec. 14, 2004, **Blair** pleaded guilty to his role in the conspiracy. **Blair** also pleaded guilty to manufacturing 50 grams or more of methamphetamine on June 30, 2003, and agreed to forfeit to the government any proceeds derived as a result in the conspiracy. On Feb. 2, 2005, **Ardry** pleaded guilty to his role in the conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine. **Ardry** admitted that he distributed methamphetamine on a number of occasions.

Another co-defendant pleaded guilty and awaits sentencing.

* **Leslie Stubblefield**, 36, of Kansas City-North, pleaded guilty on Aug. 25, 2005, to her role in the methamphetamine conspiracy. **Stubblefield** admitted that she participated in the manufacture of methamphetamine on two occasions in June and December 2003. **Stubblefield** also admitted that she conspired to distribute methamphetamine from January 2003 to March 25,

2004.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Kathleen D. Mahoney. It was investigated by the Kansas City Metro Meth Task Force, the U.S. Secret Service and the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow